

## Summary of Legislative Changes for the Star Rated License System

Several months ago legislation designed to improve the state's Star Rated License System was introduced into the North Carolina General Assembly. Since then, the legislation has passed and will be effective January 1, 2006.

### *What are the changes?*

Current System	New System
☆ 3 components (program, education and compliance history)	☆ 2 components (program and education standards)
☆ Maintain 60% compliance history	☆ Maintain 75% compliance history (minimum requirement)
☆ Compliance assessed over 3 year period	☆ Compliance assessed over 18 month period

### *When does a child care provider change over to the new system?*

- New child care programs opening after January 1, 2006 will be assessed under the revised system.
- Programs currently operating with star ratings will be allowed time to transition to the two-component system, with the revised rating system applied to all programs by January 1, 2008.

### *Why was the current Star Rated License system improved?*

- Research has demonstrated that the Program Standards and Staff Education components of the Rated License are more closely linked to higher quality care and strong outcomes for children than Compliance History.
- Data also confirm that programs with fewer points in Program Standards and Staff Education Standards are more likely to have substantiations of abuse and neglect.
- Since the state's Compliance History score is based on violations found during monitoring visits, it often depends on the number of visits made. A high Compliance History score may mean that the DCD has not made more than one annual visit.

***What's next?***

- Over the next few weeks, focus groups, which will include child care providers and child care service agencies, will be meeting to give input on the revised system and development of rules.
- The NC Child Care Commission will develop rules on how the ratings will be earned under the modified licensing system. The NC Child Care Commission has scheduled Rules Committee Meetings, a [schedule](#) of these meetings are available on the homepage of the Division's website at [www.ncchildcare.net](http://www.ncchildcare.net).
- When the proposed rules are published for public comment, they will also be posted on the DCD website for feedback. In addition, a full copy of the rule text and information on upcoming NC Child Care Commission meetings will be posted.
- Based on public comments, the Commission will finalize the revised Star Rated License system's rules.

***How will licensing consultants assist providers with the change?***

Licensing consultants will be working with programs to help plan for the change. Some child care programs may be ready to transition to the revised system during the three-year reassessment of their star ratings. If not, they will be permitted to wait until the January 1, 2008 deadline.

***What if I have questions about my program?***

Please contact the Division of Child Development at 1-800-859-0829 and ask to speak to a Customer Service Representative.